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14 November 1944

Country: U.S.S.R.

Subject: Notes on Changes of Design of Soviet Tanks

25X1

1. Tanks observed in the Kalle area are mainly "T-34's" and "KV's". "IS" tanks are occasionally seen, but are without doubt only for parade purposes.

2. In the case of the T-34, a tank of the latest design is mainly to be seen, which incorporates many improvements already envisaged and effected by the Germans in their tank design: for instance, the commander's cupola, the space armor (Zusatzpanzerung) in vulnerable places, and the defense devices in case of close-range tank fighting. An improved version is the 76.2 mm. super-long (Kanonenlang) gun without muzzle-brake in place of the previous simple long-barrelled gun.

3. The KV has undergone many changes and it is now difficult definitely to identify it. The tank has recently been equipped with various types of turrets, the most striking and significant of which is the flat round one (mushroom-shaped), which is practically invulnerable and which gives the tank an extraordinary likeness to the JS. It has no commander's cupola. Armament consists of two machine guns and a super-long gun varying between 76.2 and 122 mm. As with the T-34, the KV is remarkable for its extraordinary performance. Apart from its weight, the tank differs from the T-34 in that it has broader tracks and does not have Christie suspension. (The KV has a sprocket and large return-rollers). These characteristics enable the KV to operate in very deep snow. While various models of the KV have been produced, the older types used during the war are now being discarded.

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4. [redacted]

a. Low design
b. Simplicity of the tank and its engine

[redacted]

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5. Disadvantages

a. Bad view from the visors (yellowish glass allows only movements to be noticed).

b. The T-34 has only two speeds (fast and slow) across country. This disadvantage has frequently had fatal results in battle.

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